

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /112 W

-----035422 080646Z /14

R 070514Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0841

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0501

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, ELTN, MOPS, DJ, ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION IN DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 0434

1. THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION, LED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AFRICAN/
ARAB DIVISION CHIEF DINKA, CONCLUDES ELEVEN-DAY CONSULTATIONS

WITH DJIBOUTI AUTHORITIES ON 7 APRIL. WITH EXCEPTION ONE LENGTHY
MEETING BETWEEN DINKA AND PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED (SEE BELOW),
THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN CLOSETED WITH COMMERCE MINISTER ELABE
AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

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2. THE MAJOR SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION HAS BEEN USE OF THE
DJIBOUTI ROAD SYSTEM TO CARRY GOODS FROM THE PORT OF DJIBOUTI
THROUGH DIKHIL TO ROAD WHICH CONNECTS AT GALAFI WITH ASSAB-
ADDIS ABABA FREIGHT ROAD. THE ETHIOPIANS PROPOSE TO SEND
60-100,000 TONS OF FREIGHT ANNUALLY OVER DJIBOUTI ROWFS. AT FIRST,
THIS WAS CONCERN BECAUSE DJIBOUTI HAS NO ROAD USE TAXES AND MAIN-

TENANCE WAS PROBLEM. FOLLOWING FRENCH SUGGESTION, DJIBOUTIANS PROPOSED ROAD RATE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN RAILWAY TARIFF, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DIKHIL-GALAFI ROAD WAS COMPLETED IN MARCH 1977 AND WAS BUILT TO 60,000 TON/YEAR STANDARD. THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS WERE REPORTEDLY AMICABLE AND ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE TO DJIBOUTI CONCERNS. MATTER OF RAILWAY OPENING WAS PUT ASIDE FOR TIME BEING.

3. THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GOULED AND DINKA WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE LIVELY. THE ETHIOPIAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS COUNTRY VIEWS THE PRESENCE OF SULTAN ALI MIRAH IN DJIBOUTI AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DINKA CALLED FOR THE EXPULSION OF THE WSLF PARTISANS WHO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN DJIBOUTI FOLLOWING THE END OF THE OGADEN OPERATIONS. HE PROTESTED EFFORTS BY SOMALIS TO IMPINGE DJIBOUTI'S FRIENDSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA.

4. REPORTEDLY PRESIDENT GOULED GAVE AN ORDER AFTER THE MEETING TO HIS INTERIOR MINISTER TO DISARM THE WSLF STRAGGLER IN COUNTRY AND SEND THEM BACK TO SOMALIA. WE HAVE NOTHING MORE FIRM ON THIS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DJIBOUTIAN WSLF MEMBERS IN DJIBOUTI IS ABOUT 300.

5. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH THE DJIBOUTIANS AND THE ETHIOPIANS ARE WORKING FIRMLY TO ADVANCE EACH THEIR OWN COUNTRY'S INTERESTS.
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THE FACT THAT THESE EFFECTIVE RELATIONS APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPING QUIETLY AND FRUITFULLY IS EVERY GOOD SIGN FOR DJIBOUTI, AND POSSIBLY A GOOD OMEN FOR FUTURE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN THIS PART OF THE HORN.
CLARKE

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